

Gc
974.402
Am47d
1778994

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

✓

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 00084 1855



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

<https://archive.org/details/historicaladdres00dick>

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,

IN

AMHERST, MASS.,

July 4, 1876.

By M. F. DICKINSON, JR.

Including the Exercises of the Day.

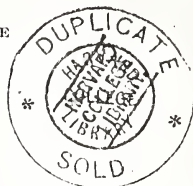
AMHERST, MASS.:
McCLOUD & WILLIAMS, PRINTERS.
1878.



3
HISTORICAL ADDRESS

2
1778994

DELIVERED AT THE



2
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,

IN

1
AMHERST, MASS.,

July 4, 1876.

4
By M. F. DICKINSON, JR.

F

844025

.3

/:

Dickinson, Marquis Fayette, 1840-1915.

Historical address delivered at the centennial celebration, in Amherst, Mass., July 4, 1876. By M. F. Dickinson, jr. Including the exercises of the day. Amherst, Mass., McCloud & Williams, printers, 1878.

viii, [9]-44 p. 23cm.

"... [The] year of the national centennial also marks the centennial of the town of Amherst."

"Valuation list of Amherst, 1770 [personal incomes, etc.]: p. [42]-44.

J 6 v

58323

.231

— — — another copy.

1. Amherst, Mass.—Hist. 2. Fourth of July orations.

Library of Congress



F74.A5D5

1-11208

- Copy 2

DELF CAR 12sd1

Introductory.



At a meeting of citizens held at the Police Court Room, on Monday evening, June 12, it was voted to celebrate, in a fitting manner, on the 4th of July next, the one hundredth anniversary of the organization of the town of Amherst, and the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to consider the matter, and report at a meeting at the same place, on Wednesday evening, June 14 :

Levi Stockbridge,
George Montague,
H. D. Fearing,
L. D. Hills.
J. L. Skinner,
H. J. Cate,
C. W. Lessey,
E. F. Cook,
J. P. Gray,
W. W. Smith,
Flavel Gaylord,
J. H. M. Leland,
O. F. Bigelow,
J. L. Lovell,
F. P. Ainsworth,
Charles Kellogg,
Ransom Cowles,

Harrison Ingram,
M. W. Howard,
Watson W. Cowles,
John B. Brown,
A. R. Cushman,
W. L. Roberts,
Asa Adams,
A. J. Robinson,
J. E. Read,
A. P. Merriek,
C. L. Goodale,
Stetson Hawley,
R. B. Bridgman,
P. D. Spaulding,
L. H. Allen,
Noah Dickinson,
J. A. Pierce.

The Committee of Arrangements met at the Police Court Room, according to appointment, on Wednesday evening, June 14. J. L. Skinner was chosen chairman, and H. M. McCloud secretary. The following committees were then chosen :

PRESIDENT OF THE DAY.—Hon. Levi Stockbridge.

CHIEF MARSHAL.—J. L. Skinner.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER.—H. M. McCloud.

MANAGING COMMITTEE.—Hon. Levi Stockbridge, Dr. Edward Hitchcock, Dr. H. J. Catc.

COMMITTEE ON ORATOR.—Hon. Levi Stockbridge, George Montagne, H. M. McCloud.

COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS.—W. W. Hunt, P. D. Spaulding, A. P. Merrick, W. W. Smith, Flavel Gaylord, Harvey White.

COMMITTEE ON REFRESHMENTS.—Ransom Cowles, R. W. Stratton, J. P. Gray, J. A. Pierce, Noah Dickinson, J. E. Read, A. J. Robinson, M. W. Howard, W. L. Roberts, Stetson Hawley, J. B. Brown, Asa Adams, A. P. Merrick, Charles Kellogg, H. D. Fearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—C. W. Lessey, A. R. Cushman, F. P. Ainsworth, R. B. Bridgman, Harrison Ingram, O. G. Couch.

COMMITTEE ON FLAGS, GUNS, AMMUNITION, &c.—Capt. T. W. Sloan, W. B. Graves, J. L. Lovell, H. H. Goodell.

COMMITTEE ON MUSIC.—J. L. Skinner, E. B. Fitts, L. H. Allen, W. S. Westcott, A. A. Southwick.

COMMITTEE ON FIREWORKS.—Henry Holland, Lieut. C. A. L. Totten, Charles Deuel, Watson W. Cowles, Fred. P. Baker.

COMMITTEE ON INVITED GUESTS.—Samuel C. Carter, E. F. Cook, O. F. Bigelow.

The Committee voted unanimously to invite M. F. Dickinson, Jr., of Boston to deliver the Address, and the invitation was accepted.

At subsequent meetings of the Committee of Arrangements, it was

Voted, To have the celebration at Amherst College Grove, (formerly Baker's Grove).

Voted, That the Amherst Cornet Band be engaged to furnish music for the occasion.

At a Town Meeting held June 22nd, it was voted to appropriate \$250 for the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the organization of the town, and \$100 additional for the publication of the history of the town.

The celebration of the one hundredth birthday of the Town and of our National Independence was ushered in by a salute of 38 guns, about sunrise, and the ringing of bells and other demonstrations made by the younger portion of the community contributed to make early risers of most of our citizens. Although not on the regular programme of the day, the procession of Antiques and Horribles, which marched and countermarched through the streets, about 6 o'clock, attracted a large number of people, and was quite a creditable display.

At 9.30 o'clock the procession formed on the common, under the leadership of Capt. J. L. Skinner, Chief Marshal. After the Amherst Cornet Band came all the Sunday Schools in town, citizens on foot, and a long line of carriages. Arriving at the Grove, after music by the Band, prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. D. W. Marsh, of North Amherst. Hon. Levi Stockbridge, President of the day, then delivered an address of welcome, speaking substantially as follows :

FELLOW CITIZENS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: In behalf of the municipal officers of the town of Amherst, and the general committee of arrangements, I bid you all a most cordial welcome to all the festivities and enjoyments of this

occasion. The century is completed since the American colonies declared themselves independent of the mother country, and to-day forty millions of people, occupying a territory sweeping away thousands of miles from ocean to ocean, and from the St. Johns to the Rio Grande, by one spontaneous outburst make the land resound with sounds of joy and gladness. Let the multitudes shout and sing; let the thunder of cannon echo from hill-top to mountain, and from valley to valley, and deep in our heart of hearts may all cherish emotions of joy, praise and thanksgiving, for all the way in which the Lord has led us these hundred years; for surely he has dealt by us as he has dealt by no other people. Compared with other nations we were then a feeble people; now we are one of the great powers of the globe; influential, honored and respected by all, whatever their attainments in civilization. A hundred years ago we occupied only a narrow strip of country along the Atlantic seaboard; now we cover the continent, and localities then far away in the western wilds and known only by name as the council and trading posts of the venturesome pioneer and red man, have by improved facilities of travel and transport, been brought to our very doors; have become great commercial emporiums, with hundreds of thousands of inhabitants, and where are gathered the products of all climes and all peoples, and the institutions of the most advanced civilization. The wilderness and the solitary country are dotted all over with farm houses and productive farms, and the flock and herd are grazing on the native haunts of the elk and buffalo. Our great lakes and rivers, whose waters were

undisturbed but by the bark canoe or the waterfall, have become busy avenues of transport for the commerce of a continent, or converted into power to give force to the machinery of an endless variety of manufacturing industries. But a hundred years of progress has not been alone in material objects. The long trial has proved that a government by the people and for the people, is strong enough to withstand the disintegrating influences of peace and war, to secure and protect all the rights of the individual, and to perpetuate itself to future generations. Great systems of education, free to all, have been thought out and firmly established, and institutions of religion, benevolence and higher learning built up and endowed; and if we are not the pioneers, we lead the van of the advancing hosts of modern civilization. All this is the result of a century of American independence, and should lead us to exclaim, "Verily, what hath the Lord wrought." But while we, the people of Amherst, sympathize with, and participate in the general national rejoicing of the day, we have occasion for joy and thanksgiving that is peculiarly local to ourselves, for we have now completed a century since our fathers declared themselves independent of the mother country, Old Hadley, and set up by permit of the legislature, a municipal government of their own. This revolution was bloodless, though not unattended with opposition, but from separation until the present time, the most fraternal relations have existed between the mother and daughter, and each has rejoiced in, and given a helping hand to aid the prosperity of the other. Though the child has outgrown the parent in

population and wealth, she has not in beauty, virtue or intelligence, and to-day salutes her with filial honor and regard. But here I trench on ground to be occupied by one of Amherst's eloquent and accomplished sons, the orator of the day, and it only remains for me to announce the programme of our grove exercises.

At the close of President Stockbridge's remarks, and singing by the Amherst Quintette Club, the Declaration of Independence was read by Rev. Henry F. Allen. The President then introduced the orator of the day, M. F. Dickinson, Jr., of Boston.

Historical Address.



The people of the United States are this year upon a pilgrimage. Their Mecca is the City of Brotherly Love; the shrine toward which their feet are hastening is the old State House of Pennsylvania—Independence Hall. It is not the unequaled international display on Fairmount Park which offers the largest attractions to the thoughtful stranger who now for the first time finds himself in Philadelphia. The magnificent expanse of the Exhibition, crowded with the garnered wealth of industry and art from every quarter of the globe, must, after all, yield the chief place of interest to the ancient building on Chestnut street, where the Declaration of Independence was first pronounced. Whether viewed in the light of those issues which its authors understood to be involved in that great historic act, or of the important results which have already grown out of it—results which have far exceeded the largest expectations of the men of 1776—or of the still more momentous interests which still lie undisclosed

in the future, the Declaration of Independence stands preeminent among the events of modern times. Its only rival in American revolutionary history is the battle of Bunker Hill. Each was typical of the patriot struggle—Bunker Hill, of the experiences of the war; the Declaration, of the great social and political principles which the war for Independence vindicated and established. On the one hand, the defeat of the New England yeomanry on the 17th of June, 1775, proved to be, in its results, a great victory; and such, to a large extent, were the experiences of the American army throughout that entire struggle. It lost many of its battles, but it steadily advanced its cause. On the other hand, the Declaration of Independence first massed and formulated all the ideas upon which colonial opposition to the policy of the Crown really rested. It became like the pillar of cloud and of fire; it rose ever in the advance, leading the way, through the weary days and anxious nights of eight years of disheartening war. It has been said that “it embodied so faithfully the current thought of Americans as to mirror the soul of the nation;” and Mr. Buckle styles it “that noble declaration, which ought to be hung up in the nursery of every king, and blazoned on the porch of every royal palace.” As much superior as ideas are to mere force, so much grander, as we estimate it to-day, was the proclamation of American liberty in Philadelphia, in '76, than the vindication of American prowess, at Charlestown, in '75. Massachusetts, therefore, may well yield to Pennsylvania the preeminence in this year

of jubilee. The metropolis of New England concedes that the highest honors of the centennial commemoration belong to her sister city upon the banks of the Delaware. Let the granite shaft at Charlestown do obeisance to-day to the greater name and higher fame of Independence Hall!

[That portion of the address which contained a discussion of the condition of the colonies when the treaty of Paris, in 1763, settled the preeminence of the English speaking race upon the North American continent, of the causes which led to the dispute with the mother country, and of the events which ended in the necessity of independence is necessarily omitted. Some account was given of the leading statesmen of the Revolutionary era. Of the most distinguished Revolutionary patriot of Western Massachusetts, the orator spoke as follows:]

No true son of Western Massachusetts would fail to discern and point out, in this remarkable group, the peerless star of Northampton—Joseph Hawley. The historian, Bancroft, places him in the highest rank among the leaders of the Revolutionary period. Hildreth associates his name with those of Otis, Hancock and Samuel Adams, and says that, of the country-members in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, none had so much influence as Mr. Hawley. For years he was the foremost lawyer of this ancient county of Hampshire, and of Western Massachusetts. He was the intimate friend and constant adviser of Samuel Adams in the Provincial Congresses. Hampshire county and the Commonwealth owe much to his wisdom and his worth. He was born in Northampton in 1724, was a graduate of Yale in 1742, studied divinity, and preached several years, but was never settled. Though at first violently opposed to Ed-

wards's theological views, he afterwards became their earnest advocate. He was a chaplain in the French and Indian war, and took part in the siege of Louisburg. The report is that he began the practice of law in Northampton about 1749. He became one of the three leaders of the Hampshire bar; which included all west of Worcester county. His only rivals were Col. Worthington of Springfield and Mr. Lyman of Suffield, then included in Massachusetts. Under these men the Hampshire bar was raised from a position below mediocrity to one of unusual brilliancy. In their day, it was established as a rule of practice, that three years study should be required of students at law, before their admission to the responsible duties of the profession, a rule which, I regret to say, afterwards fell into disuse. Mr. Hawley lived in great simplicity. The latch-string of his house was never withdrawn, and he used no bar, bolt, nor key. No man hereabouts at all approached him in the public esteem; for he was pious, devout, generous, public-spirited and eloquent. In the General Court, of which he was frequently a member, he excelled all in the soundness of his reason and judgment, and the prudent firmness with which he maintained his views. After the repeal of the Stamp Act, the English ministry intimated to the legislature of the Massachusetts colony that restitution was expected for those officers of the crown who had suffered loss of property in attempting to enforce that obnoxious statute. The form of the answer of the General Court was suggested by Maj. Hawley. He opposed any relief, except

on condition of a general amnesty. In the debate upon this question, he first announced the doctrine that Parliament had no right to legislate for America. James Otis rose in his place to thank Mr. Hawley for taking this position, saying it was farther than he himself had yet gone in the House. The next year Mr. Hawley was censured, and suspended from practice in the courts, for expressing political sentiments too liberal to suit the government; but he was restored before 1770. So intimate and friendly were his relations with Samuel Adams that the latter relied much upon the thorough legal knowledge and excellent discretion of his faithful fellow laborer; and he often wrote to Mr. Hawley, unbosoming his plans, his fears and his hopes. Mr. Hawley had a deep religious nature, out of which flowed all the springs of motive and conduct. "Don't put off the boat," cried some timid one in the General Court, in 1774; "Don't put off the boat till you know where you will land." "God will bring us to a safe harbor," was the intrepid and trustful reply of the patriot of Hampshire.

When the Massachusetts delegates to the first Continental Congress at Philadelphia had reached the Connecticut river, they received a letter of advice from the wise counsellor of Northampton. "We must fight," said he, "if we cannot otherwise rid ourselves of British taxation. The form of government enacted for us by the British parliament is evil against right, utterly intolerable to every man who has any idea or feeling of right or liberty. * * * Fight we must.

finally, unless Britain retreats. * * * Our salvation depends upon a persevering union. Every grievance of any one colony must be held as a grievance to the whole, and some plan must be settled for a continuation of congresses, even though congresses will soon be declared by Parliament to be high treason." And again in the autumn of 1775, when Congress seemed to hesitate to assume powers of government, Hawley's keen eye was the first to discern that a state of revolution demanded and justified such an extreme measure; and from his seat, in the Provincial Congress at Watertown, he wrote to Samuel Adams at Philadelphia: "The eyes of all the continent are fastened upon your body. * * *

It is time for you to fix on periodical annual elections — nay, to form into a parliament of two houses." After the Declaration of Independence, the excitements of politics were much less felt in Massachusetts than before, and we find little recorded of the subsequent career of this distinguished commoner of Hampshire. He did not practice law after 1774, though he afterwards occasionally presided in the Court of sessions as the oldest magistrate. He died childless in 1788, at the age of 64. All of us, today, who claim share in the renown of this ancient county, owe him, as our civic father, a debt of gratitude. His name shall be remembered and honored so long as the principles he defended, and the institutions he helped establish, shall find defenders among a free and enlightened people.

* * * * *
By a pleasant coincidence, this year of the National

centennial also marks the centennial of the town of Amherst. True, she is somewhat more than one hundred years old; but, by the record, she is first styled a town in 1776. In the following extract from the legislative proceedings of that period, we find the first official recognition of "The Town of Amherst."

"In Council, Aug^t 27, 1776.

Whereas it is represented to this Board that the Selectmen of Amherst have made application at the Powder mill at Andover by Simon Smith, with proper certificates, agreeable to a resolve passed in June last, and by some misapprehension the s^d town has been disappointed in receiving the same; and it being judged expedient that the town be furnished forthwith with the powder aforesaid, as 'tis said some of it is wanted for the use of the troops destined for Canada in their march through the woods to Skeensborough.

Ordered, that the Commissary General be directed to deliver to Mr. Simon Smith one hundred and twenty-five pounds weight of gun-powder for the Town of Amherst, he paying therefor at the rate of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ a lb. to t^h s^d Commissary."

From the earliest occupation of the territory until the year 1753, this place was called "New Swamp," "Hadley Farms," "East Farms," "East Hadley," or "Hadley 3d Precinct." At that date, South Hadley having been incorporated a district, this became "Hadley 2d Precinct," and in the year 1759 was incorporated as the "District of Amherst." The term precinct was an ecclesiastical designation; it meant simply a parish, and was a division of a town having power of levying taxes to support a minister.

A district, however, enjoyed a complete town organization, with full town powers, except the right to send representatives to the General Court.

The act of District incorporation was signed February 13, 1759. In the Bill, as it passed through its several stages, the name is left blank. This appears usually to have been the case with the newly created districts of that period. The right of naming them was treated as a prerogative of the Colonial Governor, who generally assigned the name when he affixed his signature to the bill. There is nothing in the State archives to show the reason which influenced Governor Pownall to call the new district *Amherst*. But the fact appears on the records that he was on terms of friendship with Gen. Jeffrey Amherst, who had just received his appointment from the King, and who shortly after became the hero of Louisburg, at the famous siege of that town in which troops from Hampshire county bore a conspicuously gallant part. To name the district after so renowned a soldier was an act of graceful courtesy on the part of the colonial Governor, and must have been not only highly gratifying to the General himself, but especially pleasing to his Monarch.

Hadley was settled in 1659, by men from Weathersfield and Hartford, who took their minister, Mr. Russell, and moved up the river into the remoter wilderness, because they could not agree with their brethren upon some matters touching church affairs. The original grant to the settlers included the present towns of Amherst, Granby and South Hadley, besides Hadley herself, on this

side the river, and Hatfield on the west. Those pioneers were brave men. It required no little fortitude, and no small faith, to take a stand on this outpost of civilization, and to establish homes in the unbroken forest. But they chose wisely. Here, in this fairest intervale of New England, where the valley broadens eastward to the heights on which we stand, flanked by the protecting ridge of Holeyoke, on the south, and the more broken outlines of Sugar Loaf and Toby on the north, our fathers planted the peaceful, wide-streeted, river-encircled town. Their descendants have clung with loyal devotion to the ancient homesteads. The Smiths, the Boltwoods, the Montagues, the Marshes, the Cowles, the Nashes, the Churches, the Kelloggs, the Dickinsons, the Cooks, the Eastmans, the Ingrams, the Whites, the Warners, the Porters and the Gaylords, who, from generation to generation, have contributed so handsomely to swell the census of Eastern Hampshire, all trace their descent from some one of the original "adventurers" at Hadley, or from others who soon followed to that new settlement. Amherst, fairest of her daughters, on this day of jubilee sends greeting from these shining slopes to the venerated mother of Eastern Hampshire. Peaceful, wide-streeted, river-encircled still, just as the founders left her, she nestles there among her majestic elms, and dreams of the past. Two hundred years ago was the heroic period of her history. Within the house of her first minister, sheltered not less by his watchful care than by the sympathy of the entire body of that free community, the Regicides found refuge

and rest. Sir Walter Scott has compelled this historic circumstance to do service to fiction in his charming tale, "Peveril of the Peak," where the romantic story of General Goffe's Sabbath exploit is detailed by the Puritan soldier, Major Bridgenorth.* Throughout King Phillip's war, which exactly two hundred years ago was ravaging the villages of the Connecticut, Hadley was the headquarters of the army of defence, and her sons shed their blood in almost every encounter of that fierce and cruel conflict. Glorious old town! Mother of us all! Though not now called by thy name, we are still a part of thee, and thy history and thy fame it shall ever be our pride to preserve and defend.

The common uplands or outer commons lying in East Hadley, now comprising the town of Amherst, were first divided among the Hadley proprietors in the year 1703. The work was done by Capt. Aaron Cooke, Lieut Nehemiah Dickinson and Samuel Porter, town measurers. These lands, lying between the Hadley line on the west, Equivalent or Pelham lands on the east, the Brookfield road on the south, and Mill River on the north, were laid out in three divisions, separated by highways forty rods in width. The western and middle (first and second), divisions, were each 240 rods wide; the eastern, (third,) was considerably wider. In 1754, Hadley reduced the western highway to twenty rods in width, and the eastern to twelve rods. In 1788, Amherst narrowed these highways to six rods. Every inhabitant was to have a lot in the

*The novelist incorrectly attributes this exploit to Gen. Whalley.

first or second division, which were reckoned of equal value, and also in the third, which was of less value. In the former allotment, the head of a family drew 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres; a man (over sixteen) without a family, drew half as much. In the eastern division a householder drew 41 $\frac{1}{3}$ acres.

Mr. Judd, the accomplished historian of Hadley, a man whose abilities and attainments fitted him for the highest historical work, says there is no definite information showing when men first began to plant themselves in Amherst, first called East Hadley. A Hatfield man, Mr. Foote, is said to have put up a rude dwelling in East Amherst, just north of where the second parish meeting house stands, as early as 1703. He expected to get a living there by hunting and fishing, but failed and abandoned the place, which long after continued to be called "Foote-folly Swamp." While danger was apprehended from the Indians, there was little disposition to occupy outlying lands of the towns; but after the close of "Father Rolle's War,"* in the fall of 1725, this impediment was removed, so that at the years 1727 or 1728 we may safely place the first permanent settlement of this town. After the original survey and allotment by Hadley in 1703, these lands were undoubtedly much improved, some portion of them was cleared and fenced, and the way prepared for the first permanent dwellers. In 1731 the number of actual settlers was eighteen, viz: John Ingram, Sr., John Ingram, Jr., Ebenezer Kellogg, John Cows, Jona. Cows, Samuel Boltwood, Samuel Hawley, Nathaniel Church, John Wells, Aaron Smith, Nath'l Smith, Richard Chauncey, Stephen

*Said to have been instigated by the Jesuit, Father Rasles.

Smith, John Nash, Jr., Joseph Wells, Ebenezer Scoville, Ebenezer Ingram and Ebenezer Dickinson. After this date the growth of the precinct must have been rapid, for in 1758 its population had become greater than that of the mother town, and in 1790 Amherst had about 1200 inhabitants, while Hadley had only some 600. The first permanent settler in the Eastern Division was John Morton, who built his house about the year 1745.

On the fifth of January, 1730, a committee was appointed by Hadley to lay out a burying ground here. In June, 1734, John Ingram and others petitioned the General Court to be made a separate precinct. Hadley sent Capt. Luke Smith to Boston to oppose it, and it appears that the opposition was then effectual, for in December following we find the same application successfully repeated. The petition was that they might be constituted Hadley third precinct, with a territory seven miles long by two and three-fourths miles wide, bounded by Sunderland, the Bay Road, Equivalent, or Pelham, lands, and Hadley Commons, and it was granted on condition that the precinct should build a meeting house, and settle a learned Orthodox minister in three years. The first precinct meeting was held October 8th, 1735, when it was voted to hire a minister and build a meeting-house. David Parsons, Jr., the first pastor, was a Harvard graduate, and began to preach here in 1735. His acceptance of the call was as follows: "Comply'd with the request of the inhabitants of the third precinct of Hadley, per me David Parsons, Jr." His ordination, however, did not occur until 1739.

His annual salary varied from sixty to eighty pounds sterling, besides one hundred good loads of wood. This was the highest salary paid in the neighborhood, except that of Mr. Hooker at Northampton. Mr. Parsons died here in 1781, and was succeeded the next year by his son David Parsons, D. D. This settlement was bitterly opposed by Capt. Ebenezer Mattoon and others, and it was in consequence of this quarrel that the second parish was formed at the East Street in 1782 or 1783. The first meeting-house in the town was begun in 1738, but was not finished until 1753, though meetings were held in it prior to 1742. It stood within the present College grounds, on the Observatory site. In 1749 it was voted to hire a suitable person "to blow the Kunk." This was the signal for public worship and meetings. There seems to have been some disagreement among the settlers, as to where the meeting-house should be located. At first it was voted to set it "up the hill, east of John Nash's house;" a month later, November 25, they voted to set it "near the Hartling Stake," so called. In December they changed the place again, and finally in 1738, they restored the proposed building to the site originally chosen, where it was built. This "Hartling Stake" was a noted spot, often mentioned in the early history of the town, and was near the place where the Amherst House now stands.

I must not omit to notice the bitter controversy which arose in connection with the building of the second meeting house just before the Revolution. It shook the eccles-

istical and social foundations of the town, and engendered feuds which had not been forgotten seventy-five years later. Owing to the increase of population, the old house had become too small for the worshippers, and in 1771 the question of building a new one began to be agitated. The first permanent settlers had located near what is now the centre village, and there the meeting-house was naturally placed. The more eligible lots were thus taken up early, so that the principal accessions in later years were in the outskirts, around what are now the north and south villages. At length these outskirts came to contain a majority of the population and churchgoers, and taking advantage of some family rivalries, and of the natural jealousy of the extremes against the centre, a plan was formed of dividing the District into two parts by an east and west line through the centre, each part to constitute a separate District, and eventually a new town. At a District meeting held January 13, 1772, a majority voted in favor of the proposed division. But as this move involved legal difficulties and necessary delays, another meeting was held April 14, 1773, when a considerable majority voted "to build two new meeting-houses, at the joint expense of the whole District." Neither of these was to be located near the centre, a plan which would throw the heaviest share of the cost on the wealthy tax-payers living there, and at the same time leave them farthest removed from the new houses. The number of real estate owners in town, when the controversy began, was 120, of whom 70—a good majority—were opposed to any divi-

sion, and in favor of placing the new meeting-house near the site of the old one. But in addition to the 120 land owners, there were about 25 legal voters, at the ends of the District,—mostly farmer's sons—to whom their fathers had conveyed small tracts of land, to enable them, as the law then was, to vote on the question at issue. These made a clear majority in favor of building two houses. In this dilemma, the seventy heads of families—living mostly in the centre village—applied to the Legislature for a stay of proceedings and a hearing. Their petition stated that the total ratable estate in Amherst, exclusive of what was held by non-residents, was £7,597.5, of which the petitioners owned £4,220.13; that they and their fathers were the original settlers of the District, who bore the principal part of the burden of beginning and bringing forward the settlement at first; of building a meeting-house; of supporting the ministry, and all other charges; and had continued to bear the greater part of expenses of every kind from the original settlement of the Parish to that day. They represented the injustice of requiring them to pay the larger part of the cost of the two meeting-houses, when they were to be deprived of the advantages then enjoyed, as the dividing line between the new parishes, coming at the centre of the town, would leave them in the outskirts; they emphasized the fact that the whole territory was not too large for one town and one congregation, and that to make the partition would be to create “two weak, and already ruined,” societies; and they concluded with this

urgent appeal: "Your petitioners further represent that they have never used any undue method to multiply their voters, choosing rather to want a majority than to procure it by unfair means. And now, finding all attempts of accommodation to be in vain; and despairing of justice without the interposition of Legislative power, they pray the attention of your Excellency and Honors to their unhappy situation." On the 18th of June following, the Legislature passed an order, staying all proceedings relative to the building of any new meeting-house or meeting-houses in the District, excepting upon or near the spot where the house then stood; and February 4, 1774, a committee, consisting of Artemas Ward of the Council, and Mr. Pickering and Col. Bacon of the House, was directed to repair to Amherst, view the same, hear the parties, and make report; and it was ordered "that the Inhabitants in the mean time wholly surcease all proceedings relative to building any new meeting-house or meeting-houses in said District." This action of the Legislature and the coming on of the war, seem to have put an end to the plan for dividing the town, though the social breach was not healed during that generation. The new meeting house in the centre was not built until 1788, some five or six years after the second parish had been formed at the East Street.

Although Amherst was incorporated a District in 1759, it did not enjoy the right of representation in the Legislature until the opening of the Revolution. Its first separate representative was Nathaniel Dickinson, Jr., who

was sent to the first Provincial Congress, which met at Salem, adjourned to Concord, and then to Cambridge, in October, 1774. Up to that time the District had united with Hadley, South Hadley and Granby in the exercise of this privilege. The reason was this: About the year 1753 the government of Great Britain became jealous of the increasing power of the representative feature of the Massachusetts Colony. The Colonial Governor was therefore instructed to give his assent to the incorporation of no new towns, unless a restraint should be placed, in each case, upon the power of sending representatives. Hence the system of districts, which conferred all the functions of towns, except this one of electing representatives. By a general law of 1786, all districts incorporated prior to January 1st, 1777, were declared towns, and Amherst was included in that number. Still, from the opening of the Revolutionary contest in 1774, this vicinage exercised, unchallenged, the privileges and influence of a town, and assumed the title in 1776, all in violation, probably, of this restriction by the Crown.

This incident of ministerial jealousy illustrates the important place which the town occupied in the New England polity. It has been styled "the nucleus of our political power." Hildreth says: "Each town constituted, in fact, a little republic, almost complete in itself." But in the West and South the primal unit has generally been the county. There every town is a village with its mayor or president, and its aldermen, who administer its government. The origin of the distinction was ecclesiastical. New England, which was purely Congregational in relig-

ious polity, was also, by necessary analogy, purely democratic in her civil government; while in other parts of the country, prevailing Episcopal or Presbyterian ideas impressed themselves upon civil affairs, and appeared in the political structure of the colonies. Hence in New England, when the Revolution came on, the towns exercised almost exclusive influence in determining the policy of the Colonial governments. The Legislatures were constantly appealing to the towns for instructions, for supplies, and for men. It was a town meeting held in the Old South meeting-house at Boston, on the 16th of December, 1774, which adjourned to Griffin's wharf, destroyed the tea, and precipitated the conflict with England. In those days it used to be said that Massachusetts was governed in town meetings. These at length became so frequent in Boston, and so important in their influence, that the Colonial Governor prohibited the calling of any more. But this official soon found that his prohibition was useless. The meetings still continued, and upon inquiry it turned out that each was simply a new adjournment of an original town meeting, which had been duly called some time prior to his order. Thus Boston maintained a perpetual town meeting for many months. Our fathers understood and valued, as their truest safeguard, this fundamental feature of their free system. We, also, must ever cherish it. We must not forget nor neglect these assemblies of freemen, where the interests of every man, however humble, find full and fair hearing, and where free discussion furnishes the surest shield for liberty and law.

The part taken by our town in the French and Indian wars was so connected with that of Hadley, that a fair division of credit is not easy. The following Amherst men were out in the campaign of 1747-8: Ens. Solomon Boltwood, Sergt. Solomon Keyes, Corp. William Montague, Corp. Joseph Hawley, Timothy Nash, Joseph Clary, Anson Smith, Pelatiah Smith, Hezekiah Belding, Samuel Ingram, David Nash, William Boltwood, Jona. Dickinson, Eleazar Mattoon, Gideon Parsons, Reuben Smith, Joseph Kellogg, Eleazar Nash, Josiah Chauncey, Joseph Alexander, Ebenezer Dickinson, Ebenezer Kellogg, John Ingram, Stephen Smith.

The records of the last Indian war, 1754-1763, are more complete of enlisted and drafted men. Amherst sent sixty-four to the different campaigns. Of these, five died in the service or of disease contracted in camp, viz: Samuel Hawley and his son, Elijah, Isaac Ward, Jr., Benjamin Harwood and Micah Guilford. Lieut. Jonathan Dickinson and his company, comprising sixteen Amherst men, were ordered out "to defend the Western Frontiers when Fort William Henry was besieged in 1757." Sergt. Reuben Dickinson, (who became the noted Captain in the Revolution) with five Amherst men, was in Capt. Moses Porter's company, in the Crown Point expedition of 1755, and was out in the "Bloody Morning Scout" of September 8th of that year, under Col. Ephraim Williams, who fell that day, and from whom the sister College in Berkshire derives its name. Samuel Hawley, his son, and three others enlisted in Capt. Nathaniel Dwight's company,

and were engaged in the same expedition. At the end of the campaign in December, Sergt. Dickinson and a squad of men returned home through the woods, rather than wait for transportation by the traveled way. Thus these young men were training, in hardships and battles, for the more important duties they were soon to assume in the war of the Revolution.

A number of the leading men of Amherst were unfriendly to the Revolution, notable among whom were Mr. Parsons, the minister, and Esquire Chauncey. Judd names about a dozen of the leading men who were tories. Mr. Parsons' influence was probably the most efficient cause in producing this result. His intimate friend, Rev. Aaron Hill of Shutesbury, was also a zealous loyalist, and used to give such offense to the people here, by the expression of unpatriotic views when he exchanged with Mr. Parsons, that they finally voted in town meeting that he should be prohibited the Amherst pulpit. The tradition is that sometimes, during the interval of divine worship on Sunday, whigs and tories waged such a war of words that they quite broke up the afternoon meeting.

It is quite possible that the public sentiment of New England was too severe upon the tories of the Revolution. Most of them were men of mature years, of conservative views, of substantial property, and of considerable standing and influence in the communities where they lived. They were generally men who had most at stake in the contest, who had most to lose in a disturbed state of public affairs, little to gain by any change, and upon whom,

in case of failure, the vengeance of the crown was likely first to fall. It is not strange that such men hesitated too long before committing themselves and their possessions to the cause of independence. Still, the great majority of the people of Amherst were earnest in the cause of liberty. The patriot leaders were mostly young men. Foremost among them in the ardor with which he devoted himself to the popular cause, was Nathaniel Dickinson, Jr., who, with the minister's son, David Parsons, Jr., afterwards second minister of the town, was graduated at Harvard College in 1771. These were the first natives of Amherst who went to college, and, so far as I can learn, the only natives of the town who were graduated at Harvard, except Ebenezer Boltwood, who was two years their junior at that institution. Mr. Dickinson was a noted character in his day, and many traditions of his eccentric character and earnest temper are preserved among his numerous descendants. Upon his graduation from College he was indentured to Maj. Hawley of Northampton, for three years, according to the wholesome requirement of that period, to study the law; and in 1774, when the time of that service expired, the young lawyer, then twenty-four years old, burned to exert every energy of youth and high talent in behalf of the liberties of his country. He was at once chosen delegate of this town to the first provincial Congress; again, to the second which met at Cambridge in February, 1775; and still again to the third, which met at Watertown in May of the same year. He was likewise Representa-



tive to the General Court in 1778, 1780 and 1783. Once when the tory minister, Mr. Parsons, was compelled to read from the pulpit a proclamation issued by authority of the new government, he added to the usual formal conclusion "God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," the following expression of his own views, "*But I say, God save the King.*" The impulsive and patriotic young whig lawyer could not endure such an insult from the tory parson. He sprang to his feet in his pew, and in excited tones cried out, "*I say you are a — rascal,*" prefacing the epithet with an expletive which was thought by those who heard it to be far more emphatic than pious. Mr. Dickinson was most active upon the several town committees of correspondence, was the author of a large part of the Revolutionary papers of the town, some of which are still preserved, was moderator at town meetings, town clerk and treasurer, selectman, assessor, and he gave a large part of his time to public business. In 1781 he was appointed Justice of the Peace by Governor Hancock,* after which he was commonly known as "Squire Nat." He was much occupied in the trial of inferior causes, and with the performance of other magisterial duties, which in those days attached to the office which he held. He died in 1802, at the age of 52 years.

Ebenezer Mattoon, Jr.,—better known as Gen. Mattoon—many here will remember; for he died at an advanced age in 1843. He was another of the ardent

*This original commission is in the author's possession.

young Whigs of Amherst. He was graduated at Dartmouth in 1776, and was for many years Representative and Senator in the Legislature; afterwards member of Congress, Sheriff of Hampshire county and Adjutant General of the State. He was, on the whole, the most distinguished public man—native of the town—who has resided in Amherst. He, also, was only twenty-four years of age when he became a representative, in 1781, and his great influence contributed in a marked degree towards keeping Amherst on the right side in the Revolutionary struggle.

In January, 1774, Amherst appointed as its committee of correspondence Moses Dickinson, Reuben Dickinson, Jacob McDaniels, Nathaniel Dickinson, Jr., and Joseph Williams, and in March the committee reported to the town their draft of a reply to the Boston committee, which was accepted by vote and ordered to be recorded. The document is vigorous and animated in style, and highly patriotic in its tone. The original is still carefully preserved by your esteemed town clerk, Mr. Carter. It is a graphic expression of the excitement and alarm which pervaded the public mind at the period of which I speak, and illustrates how thoroughly the town of Amherst committed herself to the popular cause.

In 1775 it was voted that when the constables for 1774 have collected the province tax for that year, they shall pay the same to a committee of five persons, consisting of Joseph Eastman, Nathaniel Dickinson, Jr., Ebenezer Boltwood, Simeon Clark and Moses Dickinson, who shall pay

the same to Henry Gardner of Stow, instead of Harrison Gray of Boston. In this manner the colonial tax was diverted from the royal to the provincial treasurer.

In 1776, two tories were sent to Northampton jail,—one as “notoriously inimical to American liberty;” the other because he was “an enemy to, and acted in opposition to, the just rights and privileges of America.” Their names I do not know.

In 1773, Gov. Hutchinson had commissioned Josiah Chauncey Captain, John Field Lieutenant, and John Nash Ensign, of the Amherst militia. At a meeting of officers in Northampton, in November, 1774, these three men renounced in writing all authority under the Hutchinson commissions, and subsequently repeated the disclaimer at Amherst. But the Whigs were suspicious of Chauncey, and required him to “burn all the commissions he had ever received from the king.” Tradition says this ceremony took place, with some display, under a tree.

On the 13th of June, 1776, in response to a request sent by the General Assembly of Massachusetts to all the towns, for an expression upon the expediency of a Declaration of Independence, Amherst voted as follows: “That should the Honorable Congress, for the safety of the United Colonies in America, declare them independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, we, the inhabitants of the town of Amherst, solemnly engage, with our lives and fortunes, to support them in the measure; and that this Resolve be transmitted to our Representative in General Assembly, as instructions to him.” Thus spoke the good town.

We may well take pride, to-day, that our sires were brave enough to say that, and to stand by it too, through the discouragements and disasters with which the history of the Revolutionary war was crowded.

It was customary in this town in Revolutionary times, to confine the tories to the limits of their own farms, to keep a strict watch upon their movements, and to allow them to leave their homes only to attend meeting on Sunday. Two of those who were under this espionage were Isaac Chauncey and Lieut. Robert Boltwood. Both had gone to Connecticut, the former in defiance of his parole, the latter on the plea of ill health, and both were wanted back. The Amherst Committee of Safety therefore took the matter in hand, as appears by the following circular :

“ IN COMMITTEE OF SAFETY,

AMHERST, MASS., August 26, 1776.

Whereas Isaac Chauncey of said Amherst, convicted of being notoriously inimical to the American states, and confined within certain limits, hath in defiance of authority, disregarded the injunctions laid on him, and clandestinely departed ('tis supposed) to some part of Connecticut, on no good design; this is therefore to desire the good people of that state or of other states where he may be found, to secure him in such manner that he may not have it in his power to injure America.

Also, whereas Lieut. Robert Boltwood of said Amherst, convicted and confined as aforesaid, having obtained liberty to journey to New Haven on account of his health, hath absented himself much longer than was expected; it is therefore desired that he may be carefully inspected where he is, or be sent to his own home.

Per order. NATHANIEL DICKINSON, JR.”

Whether the refugees were brought back, or came back voluntarily, we are not told. Perhaps these were the "two Amherst Tories" who went to Northampton jail.

In 1777 it was voted that the conduct of Rev. David Parsons "is not friendly in regard to the common cause, and that a committee notify him of this vote." Two of his deacons were named for the service, but what was the effect of their call upon him history has not recorded. It is to be presumed, however, from the temper of the times, that both sides had something to say, and that the parties had a pretty frank and plain interchange of views, for the sturdy old parson was no craven.

In 1778 the town voted that "persons not owning Independence on the Crown of Great Britain, agreeably to the Declaration of Congress, shall not vote."

From the Muster Rolls, and other records in the State Archives at Boston, a pretty full account can be gathered of the part taken by the Amherst Militia, in the different campaigns from 1775 to 1782.* My time will allow of only a brief summary. A company of Minute Men had been organized in the fall of 1774, composed of soldiers from Amherst, Shutesbury and Leverett, under command of Capt. Reuben Dickinson of Amherst. The news of the battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775, reached this town about noon on the 20th, and Capt. Dickinson and his company appear to have started before night for the scene of the conflict. The total number of the company was

*These papers, and many others of great historical value relating to Amherst, have been copied for the author by Rev. J. H. Temple of Framingham, well known as an accurate historian. They are deposited, for the benefit of the future writer, in the Library of Amherst College.

sixty; twenty-eight from Amherst, twenty from Shutesbury and twelve from Leverett. The first Lieutenant was Zaccheus Crocker, and the first Sergeant, Daniel Shays, afterwards the noted rebel leader in "Shays' Rebellion," were both from Shutesbury. The Amherst men were as follows: Capt. Reuben Dickinson, 2d Lieut. Joseph Dickinson, Sergt. Ezra Rood, Corp. Ebenezer Eastman, Corp. Adam Rice, Samuel Buckman, Luke Coffin, Reuben Dickinson, Jr., John Dickinson, Waitstill Dickinson, Azariah Dickinson, Ebenezer Dickinson, Elihu Dickinson, John Eastman, Timothy Green, John Hodden, John Ingram, Ebenezer Kellogg, Ebenezer Mattoon, Sr., Thomas Morton, Clement Marshall, Eldad Moody, William May, Stephen Smith, Martin Smith, Reuben Smith, Simeon Smith, Ambrose Williams. The company was in service as Minute Men eleven days; though many of them were retained sixteen, twenty-one and thirty-eight days. April 30th, Capt. Dickinson organized a new company enlisted for eight months. Zaccheus Crocker held his place as Lieutenant, and Daniel Shays was promoted to ensign. Nine of the Amherst Minute Men re-enlisted, and, in addition, the following joined the company: Benjamin Buckman, Elijah Baker, Giles Church, Selah Dickinson, David Pettis, Cesar Pratt, Daniel Ralef, Levi Smith, James Shay. The remainder of re-enlistments and enlistments, were mostly from Shutesbury and Leverett. This company, sixty strong, was attached to Col. Ruggles Woodbridge's regiment, and was the only full company it contained. Nearly all of Capt. Dickin-

son's men were in the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17th. Before the battle, the company had headquarters at Harvard College; after that, it was stationed at Prospect Hill and Lechmere Point. Nine of the Amherst Minute Men re-enlisted for eight months on the 30th of April. Their names were Reuben Dickinson, (Captain), Adam Rice, (Corporal), Samuel Buckman, Luke Coffin, John Dickinson, Azariah Dickinson, Elihu Dickinson, Ebenezer Kellogg, Ambrose Williams. The late Squire John Dickinson of East Amherst, who died in 1850, was the last survivor of this company. His picture is before you. Lieut. James Hendrick, Moses Dickinson and Simon Fobes, all of this town, were in the train of artillery attached to Col. Woodbridge's regiment. Thirteen Amherst men enlisted in Capt. Noadiah Leonard's company, Col. Woodbridge's regiment, for the eight months campaign of 1775, viz: Ensign Samuel Gould, Sergt. Moses Cook, Corp. Samuel Field, Moses Hastings, Simeon Pomeroy, John Billings, Abner Nash, Elias Smith, Isaac Goodale, Gideon Henderson, Ebenezer Field, Amos Nash, Samuel Church. This makes a total of fifty-three men from Amherst in service in 1775.

Under the call for troops to supply the place of the eight months' men, whose term expired Dec. 31st, 1775, Lieut. James Hendrick, promoted to be Captain, raised a company of sixty men from Amherst, Hadley, South Hadley and Granby, who reported at Charlestown, Jan. 13th, 1776. It contained twenty Amherst names. Under the call of June 25th, Capt. Reuben Dickinson enlisted a company of

sixty-eight men from Amherst and the surrounding towns for the expedition to Ticonderoga, and was out from July 16th, 1776, to March 1st, 1777. The names of twenty-four Amherst men appear on the roll. Under the call of June 19th for troops to defend Boston, eight Amherst men joined Capt. Oliver Lyman's company and were stationed at Dorchester from August 12th, 1776, to March 31st, 1777. The names of fifty-four Amherst soldiers appear on the rolls for 1776, one of whom, Ebenezer Kellogg, died November 22d.

Next to 1775, the year 1777 was longest remembered, and spoken of with pride by the officers and men who took part in its campaigns. These included the battle of Bennington, and the surrender of Burgoyne, and constituted the turning point of New England enthusiasm. Under the call issued in January for three years' men, our town enlisted Willis Coy, Reuben Dickinson, John Fox, Jr., (fifer), Samuel Gould, (killed), David Pettis, Joseph Young (who re-enlisted in 1780 for three years), Noadiah Lewis, (enlisted "during the war,") James Trumble, Samuel Brown, John Johnson and Jonathan Battis. Some were paid \$20, others \$50 bounty. Of the troops called for in May "to re-enforce the Northern Army," for two months, sixteen of our men went with Capt. John Thompson's company, in Col. Leonard's regiment. Capt. Eli Parker of Amherst, and his company of sixty-four, mostly our townsmen, were in the same regiment, and Lieut. Jonathan Dickinson with three Amherst men joined Capt. Jeremiah Ballard's company in Col. David Wells' regiment, in the same campaign. Capt.

Reuben Dickinson, after staying at home four months, went with his company in Col. Elisha Porter's regiment, in July, and was stationed at Moses Creek. Six Amherst men started "for the relief of Bennington" in August, "carrying their own baggage;" and at the same date, Lieut. Noah Dickinson and twenty men "marched on an alarm to New Providence." Under the call of August 9th for one-sixth part of the militia to re-enforce the army, Lieut. Jonathan Dickinson and three men marched, Aug. 14th, with Capt. Moses Harvey's company. Capt. Samuel Cook and forty-three Amherst men departed August 17th; and immediately after his return from Moses Creek, Capt. Reuben Dickinson and his company marched for Stillwater. Capt. Dickinson returned October 24th; Lieut. Dickinson November 29th; and Capt. Cook December 7th; all were in the army under General Gates; all took a more or less active part in the battles of October 7th and 11th, and all were present at the surrender of Burgoyne, October 17th. The exact number of our men who were in the service this year is not known, but it could not have been less than one hundred and twenty-four. Ebenezer Mattoon, Jr., commenced his military career at this time; first as a private in Capt. Thompson's company, and afterwards as First Lieutenant in Capt. Samuel Cook's company. He was in the battle of Bemis Heights, October 7th.

January 1st, 1778, Lieut. Ebenezer Mattoon, Jr., and others, joined Capt. Joshua Parker's company, Col. Nathaniel Wade's regiment, for twelve months' service in Rhode Island. In May, Capt. Eli Parker enlisted six men for

eight months' service in the Continental Army, and four men joined Capt. Abner Pomeroy's company for a like term. In June, six men were drafted for nine months' service, and were ordered to report at Fishkill, July 8th; and nine others voluntarily enlisted.

Most of the men called out in 1779 were for service in Rhode Island and at New London. Capt. Elijah Dwight's company was at the latter place in the summer, with Lieut. Luke Coffin and nineteen Amherst soldiers. Four Amherst men enlisted in Capt. Moses Montague's company, October 1st, and four were in Capt. Joshua Woodbridge's company of new levies in December.

In 1780 and 1781, six men were drafted, and twenty-eight men enlisted from Amherst. Most of them were young men from sixteen to twenty-one years old. The companies to which they were attached were stationed at West point and Horse Neck. The list of the "Last Three Years' Men," called for December 2, 1780, has not been found.

I have dwelt thus upon details, because little of our local history in the Revolutionary period has been preserved in accessible form. The names of the patriots of 1776 must not be lost. If the men who died in the War of the Rebellion are entitled to have their memories preserved in enduring granite, surely they are worthy of equal remembrance who fell in the War of the Revolution. Let the lists stand side by side—rolls of equal honor—upon the monument which Amherst shall sometime build to her sons who lie "dead on the field of honor."

But it is time to draw these discursive reminiscences and reflections to a close. I must leave it for another hand to sketch the history of our town since the period of the Revolution. Such a future as that of which Amherst has promise, deserves that all the important facts of her entire history should be gathered and preserved by some one who has ample time and capacity for such work. When your summons to perform the service I am now rendering reached me twenty days ago, my cooler judgment would have responded no; but my heart said yes. "Nothing is impossible here," shouted Mr. Webster at Bunker Hill, on the day of his great oration there, to the throng who said they could not fall back. So I thought nothing should be deemed impossible by me on Independence Day, 1876. Such time as I have been able to snatch from engrossing duties, and such strength as I have had, has been cheerfully given to this pleasurable duty. Surely the old town has a right to the service of every son on a day like this. The charm that lingers on the hill-tops, and nestles in the valleys of Amherst, is not lost by any of her children, however wide their dispersion. Lapse of years has not dimmed this charm, nor have other scenes eclipsed it. Hundreds of hearts far away unite with us in the commemorations of this hour, through those invisible and mystic mental currents which make the absent present with us. For them, no less than for ourselves, we salute these ancient homesteads, and pay grateful homage to the mother of us all.

The misty hills, with which we are encircled, return their welcome to our shouts of greeting; the deep

woods murmur their salutations; the dancing waters in the mountain brooks offer tuneful music for this day of jubilee; and the ripening harvests on hundreds of waving fields bow in honor of the passing century.

“On thy calm joys, with what delight I dream,
Thou dear green valley of my native stream.”

But what shall the next century be? Will the orator at the second centennial be able to say that America still sustains a people who love virtue, who honor God, and who cherish the free institutions bequeathed by our fathers. God grant it may be so, and that the twentieth century to which Macaulay doubtingly appealed for the trial of America, may vindicate the hopes of the patriots who fought the battles of Independence, and secured our liberties through many perils and great trials.

Valuation List of Amherst, 1770.

NAMES.	Polls.....	Houses.....	Oxen.....	Swine.....	Sheep.....	Neuro and Faculty..	Money at Interest...	Personal Estate....	Mills.....	House and Land.....	Real Estate	Total.....	
Martin Kellogg.	1	4	2	1	2	13	f. 10	26	5	16	25 10	51 5	
Ephraim Kellogg.	1	1	2	2	4		n. 10	20	12	20	31	51 12	
Ebenezer Mattoon.	1	2	2	4	3	13		60	20 15	58	78 10	99 5	
Elijah Baker.	1	3	2	2	3			14	4	36	60	74 4	
Joseph Eastman.	2	2	4	1	4	21		27	5	43	72 10	99 15	
Ebenezer Dickinson, 2d.	1	1	1	2	1		f. 10	15	4	11	24 15	39 15	
Joseph Church.	1	1	2	2	3			10	4	22	35 10	45 14	
Ebenezer Dickinson.	1	2	2	4	2	12		16	12	36	60	76 12	
Nehemiah Strong.	1	1	1	1				200	15 10		4	19 10	
Samuel Gould.	1	1	1	1			f. 10	13	10	10	18	31 10	
Isaac Goodale.	1	1	2	4	5	6	f. 5	40	32	6	32	88 6	
Martin Smith.	1	1	1	1	2		f. 20	24	6	10	21	45 6	
David Blodgett.	1	1	1	2		7	f. 10	16	1	3	12	28 1	
Daniel Kellogg.	3	1	2	8	2	15	f. 10	90	36	9	83	119 9	
Jonathan Dickinson.	1	2	2	2	1			20	12 12	14	28 10	41 2	
Jonathan Dickinson, Jr.	1	2	1	3	1	10		12	8	17	33 15	46 3	
Nathan Dickinson.	3	3	2	6	5	16		23	8	59	96 10	118 18	
John Morton.	1½	1	2	2	1	1		9	11	11	22 15	32 6	
Thomas Morton.	1				1				8			8	
Gideon Dickinson.	2	1	2	3	3	9		13	1	22	40	53 1	
Hezekiah Beldin.	1	1	2	3	2	4	f. 10	21	18	16	29	50 18	
Reuben Dickinson.	1	2	2	3	4		f. 10	24	2	18	32	56 2	
Gideon Dickinson Jr.	1			1				1	10	14	20 10	22	
Moses Hawley.	2			2	2	1		3	19			3 19	
John Hoddin.	1			1	1			1	18	3	5 15	7 13	
Elijah Morton.										22	38 10	38 10	
Simeon Dickinson.	1	2	2	4	4	10		17	2	20	36	53 2	
Ebenezer Kellogg.	1			1				1	10			1 10	
Ebenezer Eastman.	1									4	4	4	
Joseph Eastman, Jr.	1	1	2					6		12	24	30	
Thomas Sumner.	1			1				1	10			1 10	
Ezra Rood.	1	2	2	1				9	10	12	17	26 10	
David Dickinson.	1	1		2	2	2		6	2	20	23	29 2	
Ebenezer Marsh	1												
John Tohy.	1												
Jeremiah Hubbard.	1												
Solomon Boltwood.	2	3	4	8	5	35	f. 40	300	91	5	70	137 10	224 15
Mr. Simeon Strong.	1	1		2		8	f. 50	100	62	4	26	46	108 4
Doctor Seth Colman.	1	1		2	1	9	f. 10	16	15	8	13 14	30 9	
Thomas Baseum.	1	1					f. 30	32		2	7 6	39 6	
Joseph Bowles.	1												
Stephen Smith.	1	1						2				2	
John Nash, Jr.	1	2		5		14		13	12	38	77 6	90 18	
Elisha Ingram.	1	2	2	3			f. 10	22	10	22	42	64 10	

NAMES.	Polls.....	Horses....	Oxen.....	Cows.....	Swine.....	Sheep.....	Neuro and Faculty..	Money at Interest..	Personal Estate...	Mills.....	Real Estate House and Land.....	Total.....
John Billings.	1	2	3	5	5				19 10	3 65	112	131 10
William Boltwood.	1	2	2	4	3	14			17 6	31	66 7	83 13
Nathan Moody.	1	1				6			5 18	14	24 10	30 8
Josiah Moody.	1	1		2					6 10	14	24 10	31
Alexander Smith.	2	2	2	7	1		f. 15		33 18	35	70 5	104 3
Josiah Channcey.	1	1	4	2	1		(n. 9 f. 20		33 8	34	49 10	82 18
Jonathan Nash.	2	1	2	2	2				9 16	20	33	42 16
Samuel Abby.	1			1					1 10			1 10
Aaron Mathews.	1			1			f. 15		16 10	3	6 5	22 15
Pelatah Smith.	1	1	2	3	3	10			13 4	18	14 46	59 4
Philip Ingram.	1	1		2		7			6 1		12 24 16	30 17
James Merrick.	1	1	2	2	3	7			11 5		13 26 9	37 14
Timothy Green.	2	1	2	1	3	7	f. 10		19 15	3 16	33 8	53 3
John Dickinson.	2	1	6	3	5				20 10	6 50	102 10	123 10
Daniel Dickinson.	1	1	2	3	5	9			13 17	30	59 10	73 7
Samuel Church.	3	1	2	2	3	5			10 19	22	32 10	43 9
Aaron Warner, Jr.	1			1					1 10		5 10	11 10
Lemuel Moody.	1	1		1	2		f. 10		14 6	4	9	23 6
Abner Lee.	2	1	2	3	4	9			13 9	17	30	42 9
Gideon Lee.	1		2						4		5 7 10	11 10
John Lee.	1											
Jonathan Moody.	4	1	4	3			f. 20	60	38 2	3 24	53	91 2
Moses Smith.	2	2	6	3	3	15			23 19	3 23	52 5	76 4
Simeon Smith.	1			1			f. 15		16 10	20	35	51 10
Simon Fobes.	2	1	2	1	3	8			9 18	7	9	18 18
Nathaniel Dickinson.	1	1		1		3			3 19	14	24	27 19
Henry Franklin.	1	1	4	2		15			15 5	14	26	41 5
Moses Dickinson.	3	2	4	4	2	20			21 16	42	86 14	108 10
Jacob Warner.	2		4	3	2				13 6	30	58 10	71 16
Peter Smith.	1	2	2	3	3	20			16 14	3 20	43	59 14
Chileah Smith.	1			2	1	3			3 17	10	17	20 17
Asahel Moody.	1	1		3	2	10	f. 15		23 6	18	28 10	51 16
Jonathan Moody, Jr.	1	1		2	3		f. 20		26 4	4	9	35 4
Daniel Roof.	1			2		1			3 3	6	11 10	14 13
Alexander Smith, Jr.	1									7	8 15	8 15
Edward Smith.	3	1		1	1				3 18	12	16	19 18
Nathaniel Colman.	2	1	2	7	3	20		20	21 18	40	90	111 18
Joel Moody.	1	1				9			3 7	10	16 10	19 17
Ely Parker.	2	1	2	4	2	12	f. 10		24 12	3 30	43 10	68 2
John Pettocs.	1		2	2	3	11			9 17	20	37	46 17
Benjamin Roads.	1	1	2	2	3	7			11 5	18	32	43 5
Joseph Nash.	1			1					1 10			1 10
Thomas Hastings, Jr.	1	1	2	1					7 10	10	15 10	23
Ebenezer Williams.	1	2	3	4	4	5			18 7	42	80 10	98 17
John Williams.	1	1	1			5			4 15			4 15
Justin Williams.	1	2	2	2	3	9		20	12 15	29	53 17	66 12
Simeon Pomroy.	2	1		2	1	10			6 18	3 22	42	48 18
John Morton, Jr.	1	1		1	2				4 6	5	8 9	12 10
John Ellis.	1	1		2	5	5			6 19	18	30	36 19

NAMES.	Polls.....	Horses	Oxen.....	Cows.....	Swine.....	Sheep.....	Negro and Faculty..	Money at Interest..	Personal Estate...	Mills.....	House and Land.....	Real Estate	Total.....
Nathan Dickinson, Jr.	1	1	2	3		20			13 10	3 20	41		44 10
Joel Billings.	1	1	2	2	2	5			10 11	16	29		39 11
Jonathan Nash, Jr.	1			1					1 10				1 10
Thomas Hastings.	3	2	2	3	3			10	23 14	33	55 10		79 4
Ely Colton.	1		2	1	2	3			6 15	13	24 15		31 10
Jonathan Edwards.	2	2	4	4	4	17		25	23 13	32	54		77 13
Noah Dickinson.	1	2	3	3	2				15 6	21	42 13		58 1
Oliver Clap.	2	1		2					5	12	24		29
Preserved Clap.	2			1	1				1 18				1 18
Timothy Clap.	1						f. 8						8
Enos Dickinson.	1			1						51	7 10		7 10
Barnabas Eddy.	1	1	2	1	2	4			8 18	29	47 10		56 8
Israel Dickinson.	1	1							2	10	15		17
Simeon Clark.	3	3	2	6	6				19 8 51	28	126 10		145 18
Joseph Giles.	1												
Moses Warner.	3	2	2	3	2	19	f. 50		66 3	40	80		146 3
Aaron Warner.	2	1	2	3	4	10	f. 30		43 12	33	69 1		112 13
Nathaniel Smith.	1	2	2	4	2		f. 10	100	36 16	28	57 4		88
Jonathan Smith.	1												
Noadiah Lewis.	1												
Moses Cook.	3	2	2	4	3	8			16 8 15	38	84 6		100 14
John Field, Jr.	1	1		3	3				7 14	16	31		38 14
John Field.	3	4	2	2	2		f. 10		25 16	60	103		128 16
Elisha Smith.	1												
Gideon Henderson.	2	2	2	3	3		f. 10		23 14	24	43		66 14
Oliver Cows.	1	1	2	3	4	4			12 14	10	19 10		32 4
Jonathan Cows.	3	3	4	6	6	16			27 16	38	74 12		102 8
Jonathan Cows, Jr.	1	1	2	1					7 10	14	29 18		37 8
David Cows.	1		2						4	20	30		34
Eleazer Cows.	1									10	17		17
Nathaniel Dickinson.	2	2	2	3	4	8		100	21 6	36	74 12		95 18
Noah Smith.	1	1	4	3	4				16 2	29	58 13		74 15
David Smith.	1	1	2	2	2				9 16 17	10	32 10		42 6
Joseph Williams.	2	1		2	1	10			6 18	30	52 10		59 8
Robert Emmons.	1				1		f. 10		10 8	14	7 15		18 3
Mary Ingram.		1		2	1	9			6 15	36	73 19		80 14
Edward Elmer.	2	2	2	4	7				15 1	28	54		69 1
Isaac Hubbard.	2	1		2	1	10			6 18	12	20		26 18
John Ingram.	1	1	1	1					5 10				5 10
Renben Ingram.	1	1	2	4	2	10			14 6	20	38		52 6
Azariah Dickinson.	2	1	2	2	3	9			11 11	20	30		41 11
Ebenezer Dickinson 3d.	1		2	2	2	7	f. 5		13 17	12	23		36 17
Nehemiah Dickinson.	1	1	2	5	5	20			18 10	30	50		68 10
Jacob Abbott.	1	1		3	1	7			7 19	30	50		57 19
John Adams.	1	1		3		5	n. 10		17 5 30	19	57 15		75
William Murray.		1		3	2				5 16	5	9		14 16
Isaiah Adams.										14	21		21
Abner Adams.										7	10 10		10 10
Ephraim Kellogg, Jr.	1	1	2	2	1	9			10 15	17	25		35 15

Real Estate estimated at 6 years yearly income.

6,779 8

JOSIAH CHAUNCEY, }
JOHN DICKINSON, } ASSESSORS.
JONA. EDWARDS, }

F844025.3

